

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03060 151908Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /091 W
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R 151840Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8468
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3060

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR --
PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY JOSE LEANDRO ECHEVERRIA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2841

1. DURING JUNE 14 COURTESY CALL ON NEW PRESIDENT OF
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY JOSE LEANDRO ECHEVERRIA, AMBASSADOR
AND ACTING DCM MITCHELL BROUGHT UP CONTROVERSIAL
LAW FOR DEFENSE OF PUBLIC ORDER (SAN SALVADOR 2922).

2. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ADMITTED LACK OF PERSONAL
FAMILIARITY WITH THAT LAW BUT INTERESTINGLY SAID
THAT TWELVE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNION DEMOCRATICA
NACIONAL (UDN), A COMMUNIST INFLUENCED OR CONTROLLED
POLITICAL PARTY, HAD CALLED ON HIM TO REQUEST REPEAL
OF THE LAW. AT HIS REQUEST, HE SAID, THEY HAD GONE
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03060 151908Z

AWAY TO PREPARE LEGAL BRIEF IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF
THE LAW WHICH UDN CONSIDERS ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL,
OR WARRANTING REPEAL.

3. WE TOOK OCCASION TO REVIEW FOR DR. ECHEVERRIA
THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE LAW (ALONG SAME
LINES AS IN PARAS 1-6 OF SAN SALVADOR 2922) AND TO

DESCRIBE TO HIM OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH GOES
OFFICIALS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH AS TO WHETHER LAW BY
NOW REPRESENTED NEW ASSET OR NEW LIABILITY FROM
GOVERNMENT POINT OF VIEW. HE LISTENED CAREFULLY AND
CLEARLY INDICATED THT HE WOULD BE FOCUSING ON LAW
IN WEEKS TO COME. WE TRIED TO EMPHASIZE ADVANTAGES OF
BRINGING RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION LEADERS INTO
MEANINGFUL ROLE IN THIS PROCESS.

4. AS DESSERT COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSION, DR. ECHEVERRIA
REVEALED THAT HIS IMMEDIATELY ENSUING VISITOR WOULD
BE FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH WHO WOULD BE
BRINGING TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR RATIFICATION
THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PACT OF
SAN JOSE). IN EXPRESSING OUR POSITIVE INTEREST IN
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, WE TOLD DR. ECHEVERRIA IT
WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EIGHT COUNTRIES HAVE
ALREADY RATIFIED AND THREE MORE ARE NEEDED TO
BRING PACT INTO FORCE.
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